

10th April, 1947.

B.S.E. 1947/2.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.

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PART 1: EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIESE M P L O Y M E N T (New South Wales).

General:

Employment of males in non-rural industries in New South Wales increased from 534,000 to 640,000 between July, 1945 and February, 1947. During the same period about 196,000 men were discharged from the armed forces in this State; over a third of these are farmers, or farm employees, employers, trainees etc., and the remainder have been almost completely absorbed into employment. It appears that employment of males in New South Wales can not be increased much further while population remains at its present level. The demand for labour in many industries exceeds the number offering for work. Unsuitability for vacant jobs and lack of mobility of labour in some country areas (due to the housing shortage) are causing some temporary unemployment, and so are industrial disputes although many strikers work temporarily in other jobs.

Employment of females in January and February was slightly above the high level reached in July, 1945 and 85,000, that is 50%, higher than at outbreak of war. The demand for more female workers is more urgent than for men in many industries but it is unlikely that the number of women offering for permanent employment can rise much above the high war-time figure.

Month	WAGE & SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT, N.S.W.					NET ENLISTMENTS in Armed Forces N.S.W.		UNEMPLOYMENT ALL Causes N.S.W.
	Rural Workers	Domestics (a)	Others			Males	Females	Males
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total			
			Thousands					
1939 July	81(b)	52	530	168	698	6	-	112
1945 July	40(b)	19	534	252	786	224	16	18(c)
1946 July	63(b)		612	247	859	50	4	
Aug.			619	247	866	45	3	
Sept.			624	249	873	41	3	
Oct.			629	251	880	38	2	
Nov.			633	254	887	35	2	
Dec.			633	255	888	32	2	
1947 Jan.			639	253	892	29	2	
Feb.			640	253	893	28	1	

(a) Employed in private households.

(b) Number of rural employees are ascertained annually in March.

(c) Not known. Probably no change since July, 1945.

Note: Adjustment to bring the above estimates into line with the Occupation Survey of 1945 will cause the above figures to be revised to 539,000 males and 247,000 females, a total of 786,000, for July 1945, with corresponding adjustments for later months. In addition, adjustments will be made to estimated monthly employment in building and in factories. Revised totals for December, 1946 will be in the vicinity of 650,000 males and 250,000 females, a total of 900,000, to compare with those quoted in this note for July, 1945. Amendments of intervening figures will not materially alter the trend in employment of females but will show a rather greater increase in employment of males than the estimated figures in the above table.

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE:

According to reports for January, 1947, both the number of vacancies and of people offering for placement increased after the lull of the Christmas period. Among those registered as 'unplaced', a substantial proportion are in jobs which they wish to change. An overall surplus of labour was reported for male clerks and salesmen, for painters, paperhangers and building labourers (because of shortages of material and other skilled building workers) and for metal tradesmen's assistants. About 1,000 manual workers unfit for work in mines or heavy industries were unemployed in Newcastle and Northern coalfield districts. The main occupations for which vacancies

were registered were male tram conductors, police, and carpenters and bricklayers; women clothing and textile workers, waitresses, process and rubber workers, and typistes. The shortage of juvenile labour in clerical occupations and factories was not substantially relieved by boys and girls entering employment after completion of schooling. The demand for labour for construction work is increasing; apart from home and factory building, works programmes for roads, railways, and public utilities are being initiated for deferred maintenance and new construction.

A large increase in the number of vacancies for men registered with Employment offices in February is probably due to the resumption of work at Sydney waterside engineering shops. The severe shortage of juvenile and adult female labour is shown by the excess of vacancies over the number waiting for placement. The number of men receiving unemployment or re-establishment benefits has risen from 2,400 in July, 1946 to 3,600 in February, 1947, mainly because of industrial disputes.

REGISTRATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(Thousands)

Month	JUVENILES				ADULTS				Unemployment & Re-establishment Beneficiaries	
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Male	Female
	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies		
1946-July	0.6	1.8	0.8	5.3	10.4	8.7	2.6	10.0	2.4	0.1
August	0.6	1.8	0.6	5.4	10.1	10.0	1.2	10.5	2.5	0.1
September	0.6	1.9	0.6	5.4	9.2	10.1	1.3	10.4	2.7	0.1
October	0.7	1.8	0.6	5.4	9.0	10.8	1.3	9.7	2.4	0.1
November	0.7	1.8	0.5	5.4	10.3	10.6	1.1	8.5	2.1	0.1
December	0.8	1.6	0.6	4.9	11.3	8.6	1.1	7.4	3.1	0.1
1947-January	1.0	1.8	0.8	5.1	12.9	9.7	1.5	7.8	3.2	0.1
February	1.0	2.0	0.7	4.8	12.4	12.8	1.3	8.4	3.6	0.1

EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES :

Employment in retail stores showed a seasonal drop of 1,600 to 86,700 in February, but is nearly 2,000 more than in October, 1946.

The professional and personal services group has shown a steady increase from 116,000 in July, 1945 to 137,700 in February, 1947 as compared with 107,600 in July, 1939. The reduction in the number of private domestics, the greater number of married women in jobs, the housing shortage and other factors have favoured the growth of service industries as shown by substantial increases in employment in hotels and restaurants and in laundries. In spite of a substantial increase in the number of those employed in hospitals and health services, these institutions have not sufficient staffs to cope with the greater demands made on them as a result of the war, decline in home-nursing and higher birthrate. In the educational group the male staffs now slightly exceed pre-war level; women who replaced men teachers etc. during the war have stayed on or have been replaced by other women so that the total number of teachers etc. is about 15% higher than at outbreak of war. There has been a considerable increase in the number of people employed in entertainment and recreational activities as compared with the pre-war figure.

The increase in the "other industries" group in February was mainly due to greater employment in building and construction. Public works and railway construction absorbed an additional 1,000 men during the month.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, NEW SOUTH WALES

(Thousands)

Month	Fact- ories	Mining and Quarry -ing	Trans- port & Commun- ication	Commerce & Finance		Profess -ional & Personal Services	Other	Total (exc rural & private domestic
				Retail Trade	Other			
1939-July	218.0	25.3	88.9	79.9	59.3	107.6	118.9	697.9
1945-July	301.0	24.8	102.6	69.1	56.5	116.1	116.0	786.1
1946-July	318.3	25.5	111.9	82.7	70.8	131.0	119.3	859.5
Sept.	323.4	26.0	112.8	83.7	73.3	132.5	121.3	873.0
Oct.	325.8	26.1	112.3	84.8	74.0	135.0	121.9	879.9
Nov.	326.7	26.4	112.9	87.7	74.1	135.8	123.2	886.8
Dec.	324.3	26.2	112.7	90.8	74.3	136.4	123.6	888.3
1947-Jan.	326.2	26.1	113.9	88.3	74.5	137.2	125.6	891.8
Feb.	326.3	26.1	113.9	86.7	74.3	137.7	128.3	893.3
<u>Increase</u>								
July '39-Feb '47	+108.3	+0.8	+25.0	+6.8	+15.0	+30.1	+ 9.4	+195.4
July '45-Feb '47	+ 25.3	+1.3	+11.3	+17.6	+17.8	+21.6	+12.3	+107.2

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES:

Employment in the metal trades declined from 137,400 in January to 135,600 in February; shortages of material, in particular of iron and steel, tinplate, and wire, are handicapping the industry; industrial disputes in Newcastle and Port Kembla affected supplies of basic materials to metal-using factories. There has been little change in the total employment in clothing and textile factories in recent months; the shortage of female labour has stopped further expansion; high labour turnover is also impeding production.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORY CLASSES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Thousands)

Factory Class	1939	1945	1946			1947	
	July	June	October	November	December	January	February
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	12.3	9.9	13.9	14.0	13.6	14.1	14.2
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	8.0	12.3	14.6	14.5	14.3	14.3	14.6
Metal trades, incl. vehicles	81.3	145.5	138.2	137.4	135.8	137.4	135.6
Textiles	14.7	18.3	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.1	20.2
Clothing	29.1	33.2	40.5	41.0	40.7	40.6	40.7
Food, drink & tobacco	26.4	31.6	34.4	34.9	35.6	34.9	35.4
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	14.4	16.0	18.9	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.2
Printing, paper etc.	16.4	15.6	20.7	21.0	20.9	20.9	21.2
Other factories, incl. heat, light and power	15.5	19.3	24.4	24.6	24.1	24.8	25.2
Total Factory Employment	218.1	301.7	325.8	326.7	324.3	326.2	326.3

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES:

The number of women employed in all industries was 253,100 in February, 1947, - that is 1,000 more than in July, 1945 and 85,100 more than at outbreak of war. Employment of females in factories increased by 45% during the war, a large proportion working in Government aircraft and munitions factories; many of these have since - transferred to civilian factories. Comparing July, 1939 and February, 1947 the number of women working in factories has risen in about the same proportion as the number of men.

Employment of women in the transport groups has fallen by 2,200 since the end of the war but is still 7,100 higher than in July, 1939, the increase being in rail and air services and communication. Female staffs in retail stores are now nearly a third greater than at outbreak of war. In banks where women replaced men to a great extent during the war, the number of female employees

has been reduced since July, 1945 but wholesalers and other offices have added both males and females to their staffs since the end of the war.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN MAIN INDUSTRIES, NEW SOUTH WALES
(Thousands)

Month	Factories	Transport & Communication	Commerce & Finance Retail Trade	Other	Professional & Personal Services	Other	Total (excl rural & private domestic)
1939 - July	59.3	5.3	32.5	10.2	47.7	13.0	168.0
1945 - July	86.4	14.6	39.2	20.6	68.5	22.8	252.1
1946 - July	83.1	12.6	40.9	20.6	72.2	17.7	247.1
August	83.2	12.5	40.5	20.9	72.7	17.5	247.3
Sept.	83.9	12.4	41.1	21.1	73.4	17.3	249.2
Oct.	84.6	12.1	41.3	21.5	74.2	17.2	250.9
Nov.	85.5	12.0	43.0	21.4	74.6	17.1	253.6
Dec.	84.9	11.8	44.8	21.3	74.6	17.3	254.7
1947 - Jan.	83.8	12.2	43.3	21.2	74.7	17.5	252.7
Feb.	85.0	12.4	42.0	21.4	74.8	17.5	253.1
Variation							
July'39-Feb'47	+25.7	+ 7.1	+ 9.5	+11.2	+27.1	+ 4.5	+85.1
July'45-Feb'47	- 1.4	- 2.2	+ 2.8	+ 0.8	+ 6.3	- 5.3	+ 1.0

(+) denotes increase (-) denotes decrease

The number of women working in food, drink and tobacco factories increased in February by 700 to 11,000 as compared with 11,400 in February, 1946. Several thousand extra workers are required in canneries for the fruit processing season and it is difficult to procure them.

Employment of females in textile factories fell by 700 between June, 1945 and February, 1947 while employment of males rose by 2,700 during the same period. In the clothing industry employment of females has increased by 5,000 since the end of the war and there has been an increase also in male employees.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(Thousands)

Factory Class	1939	1945	1946		1947	
	July	June	November	December	January	February
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	.5	.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	2.7	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	4.8	21.3	13.9	13.8	13.6	13.6
Textiles	9.2	11.5	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.8
Clothing	22.2	25.9	31.2	30.9	30.7	30.9
Food, drink & tobacco	9.3	11.2	10.1	10.5	10.3	11.0
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Printing, paper etc.	5.4	5.7	6.6	(6.3	6.3
Other factories, including heat, light and power	3.6	4.9	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4
Total Factory Employment	59.3	86.9	85.5	84.9	83.9	85.0

BUILDING MATERIALS:

The output of bricks and tiles in February showed some improvement as compared with the two preceding months (when it was affected by the holidays) but it remained below the level reached in the second half of 1946. Production of bricks in February, 1947 was only 58% of the average monthly production in 1939. Production of tiles also was below pre-war level although the demand for tiles has been intensified by the shortage of other roofing materials.

OUTPUT OF CERTAIN BUILDING MATERIALS, N.S.W.

(Monthly Averages)

PERIOD	BRICKS (millions)	TILES (millions)	LOCAL SAWN TIMBER (million superfeet)
1939	31.6	1.7	15.0
1945 (August)	8.3	0.5	18.4
1946 - March Quarter	12.3	1.2	18.5
June Quarter	15.3	1.4	20.0
September Quarter	19.3	1.6	24.0
October	22.3	1.7	26.0
November	19.7	1.6	
December	16.9	1.3	
1947 - January	14.4	1.3	
February	18.2	1.5	

NEW FACTORIES:

Initial employment in new factories registered in New South Wales in the nine months ended March, 1947 totalled 6,877 as compared with 7,726 in the whole year ended June, 1946. A third of the number in 1946/47 was employed in new factories outside the Sydney metropolitan area. New clothing factories took about 30% of the initial employment.

INITIAL EMPLOYMENT IN NEW FACTORIES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

Class of Factory	Nine months ended March, 1947			Twelve months ended June 1946
	Metropolitan	Balance of State	Total	Total
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	1,417	405	1,822	2,584
Clothing	1,311	694	2,005	2,647
Food, drink & tobacco	234	281	515	265
Woodworking, incl. sawmills	238	214	452	519
Paper, stationery, printing	192	115	307	155
Textile & textile goods	43	279	322	280
Other factories	1,187	267	1,454	1,276
All Factories	4,622	2,255	6,877	7,726

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Passenger and goods traffic during the current year is slightly below the high level of 1945/46 but remains much heavier than before the war. Comparing the eight months ended February 1939 and 1947, the number of passenger journeys increased by 44,600,000 or 35% and the tonnage of goods carried by 810,000 tons or 19%, although the railway not was not extended during the war.

The increase in railway revenue which resulted from heavier traffic during and since the war has not kept up with the rise in working expenses. In the eight months period of 1938-39 working expenses absorbed 74% of gross earnings as against 81% in 1946-47; wage rises during the current year will further increase expenses. The surplus of gross earnings over working expenses in the eight months ended February, 1947 was £3.87 millions. In the year 1945-46 a surplus of £6.2 millions (not after deducting subsidies) was required to meet debt charges.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

(Millions)

Year	Month of February			Eight Months ended February			
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (a)	Gross Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (a)	Gross Earnings	Net Earnings (b)
	No.	Tons	£	No.	Tons	£	£
1939	14.8	1.28	1.42	126.5	9.32	12.59	3.28
1945	20.8	1.48	2.43	166.6	12.17	21.16	5.34
1946	21.9	1.32	2.50	174.4	10.20	20.58	4.76
1947	20.4	1.29	2.38	171.1	11.13	20.32	3.87

(a) Excluding livestock. (b) Gross earnings less working expenses, available to meet debt charges.

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES:

The number of passenger journeys on trams and buses in Sydney and Newcastle in February, 1947 was 42.9 millions as compared with 44.3 millions in February, 1946, but the total for the eight months ended February increased from 362.9 millions to 365.9 millions and this is 48% more than in 1938-39. Between 1938-39 and 1946-47 gross earnings increased by £1,534,000 or 39 per cent and working expenses by £1,578,000 or 64 per cent.

Except in November and December, 1946 working expenses exceeded gross earnings in every month of the current financial year, and the gross deficit to the end of February amounted to £14,000. To the current deficit must be added depreciation and debt charges which amounted to £863,000 in the year 1945-46.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	Month of February			Eight Months ended February			
	Passenger Journeys (a)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses (b)	Passenger Journeys (a)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses (b)	Not Earnings (c)
	millions	£000	£000	millions	£000	£000	£000
1939	29.0	347	292	247.2	2887	2457	430
1945	42.9	458	401	364.2	3869	3463	406
1946	44.3	471	448	362.9	3858	3712	146
1947	42.9	472	478	365.9	4021	4035	(-)14

(a) Excluding Sydney Harbour Bridge passengers

(b) Excluding depreciation

(c) Available to meet debt charges.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES:

The loss of man-working days through industrial disputes in February, 1947 was greater than in any month since December, 1945. Isolated disputes in the coal-mining industry culminated in a general stoppage in South-Coast mines on the 26th February which extended over five working days. In other industries, steelworks and stavedoring were affected by disputes. Work was resumed at the end of February in Sydney waterside engineering works which had been idle since November, 1946.

NEW SOUTH WALES - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.
(Monthly Averages - Thousand Man-days lost)

Period	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total
1937-39	39	14	53
1945	57	103	160
1946 - March Qtr.	20	23	43
June Qtr.	26	33	59
Sept. Qtr.	35	12	47
Dec. Qtr.	25	76	101
1947 - January	36	195	231
February	52	193	245

COAL PRODUCTION:

Because of industrial disputes average coal production in February, 1947 was lower than in February, 1946, and below the weekly average in the whole year 1946.

COAL PRODUCTION, NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Thousand tons		
<u>Yearly Average</u>	Underground	Open Cut	TOTAL
1936-1939	11,250	-	11,250
1940-1944	10,004	-	10,004
1945	9,714	524	10,238
1946 x	10,430	756	11,186
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
February, 1946	212	14	226
January, 1947	167	14	181
February, 1947	191	14	205

x Preliminary.

PORT OF SYDNEY:

The total volume of trade handled in the Port of Sydney which was about 8 million tons before the war fell off to less than 7 million tons in the early years of the war but with the greater flow of war materials it rose to 9 million tons in 1944/45, to drop back to pre-war level in 1945/46. The volume of imports showed only minor fluctuations during the war, - a fall in imports from overseas was compensated by greater inter-state and intra-state trade, and in the latter years of the war, imports of war materials made up for the decline in civilian imports from overseas. Overseas exports were halved between 1939/40 and 1942/43 but in the two following years shipments to the fighting zones increased the export tonnage well above pre-war levels.

Shortages of supplies and shipping have kept the volume of imports in 1946/47 below pre-war figures; this applies particularly to interstate imports. Imports from overseas have fallen during the current year and, though during the eight months ended February, 1947 they have come in at about the same rate as in 1938/39, they remain much below requirements of industry and trade. Sea carriage of timber, sugar and other articles from ports inside the State has declined; but there has been some increase of coal shipments, which made up 75% of the tonnage of intra-state imports in 1937/38 and about 85% in 1946/47.

TRADE OF THE PORT OF SYDNEY

(Thousand tons)

	OVERSEA	INTERSTATE	STATE	TOTAL
I m p o r t s				
1937/38	2,238	1,271	1,964	5,473
1938/39	2,045	1,187	1,896	5,128
1944/45	2,740	1,485	1,625	5,850
1945/46	2,661	1,157	1,580	5,398
1945/46 July-Feb.	1,897	825	1,002	3,724
1946/47 July-Feb.	1,371	687	1,180	3,238
E x p o r t s				
1937/38	1,335	805	368	2,508
1938/39	1,429	798	340	2,567
1944/45	2,428	602	177	3,207
1945/46	2,033	414	152	2,599
1945/46 July-Feb.	1,398	285	99	1,782
1946/47 July-Feb.	1,433	323	117	1,873

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS:Cars:

During February, 1947 781 new motor cars (incl. buses and cabs) were registered in New South Wales which is about equal to the monthly average during the December quarter of 1946 but only 45 % of the 1938-39 average. Because of production lags in England and the United States there is no immediate prospect of an appreciable increase in deliveries. Imports of chassis from the United States are now licensed on a quota system based on 1935-36, imports of different models; imports of chassis for luxury vehicles are prohibited. The number of cars on the register at the end of February, 1947 was 199,100 as compared with 218,700 at 31st August, 1939. A great proportion of cars on the road are over age and would be scrapped if new models were available.

LORRIES AND UTILITIES:

Monthly registrations of new lorries (incl. utilities, vans and tractors) which averaged 660 in 1938/39 and had reached 521 in August, 1946 were only 427 in February, 1947. However, the total on the register at the end of February was 111,000 or 32,300 more than in 1939.. The registered vehicles include a number of military vehicles converted to civilian use as well as old vehicles re-registered.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES

PERIOD	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED			CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON REGISTER		
	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total
1938-39 (Monthly Average)	1718	660	2378	000	000	000
1945 - August	26	201	227	218.7 xx	78.7 xx	297.4
1946 - August	319	521	840	188.1	86.1	274.2
- September	561	489	1050	194.0	102.2	296.2
- October	626	509	1135	194.9	104.0	298.9
- November	815	438	1253	195.8	105.7	301.5
- December	893	432	1323	196.7	107.3	304.0
1947 - January	584	334	918	197.9	108.8	306.7
February	781	427	1208	198.5	109.9	308.4
				199.1	111.0	310.1

(a) Including motor buses and cabs (b) Including utilities, vans and tractors
 x As at end of month xx As at 31st August, 1939.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION. GAS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.

Pig iron production showed a great improvement in February, 1947 as compared with earlier months and reached the level of July, 1945, that is 30% above the pre-war average. Steel production was lower than in the second half of 1946 and was only 10% above the pre-war average. The demand for steel greatly exceeds available supplies, and production in many Australian factories (for example machinery, canisters, motor bodies, building materials) has been slowed down because of the shortage of steel. The capacity of the steel-mills in Port Kembla and Newcastle is not fully utilised because of the shortage of suitable labour. Lack of accommodation is preventing the transfer of workers from other districts to Port Kembla where several hundred men are required for an additional steel mill recently completed. Transport difficulties have also held up deliveries of steel in recent months and shortage of coal has at times affected production.

The consumption of gas and electricity, which was reduced in consequence of an industrial dispute in the gas works in December, 1946 and January, 1947, rose again in February and was two thirds higher than the pre-war average consumption.

Period	Index of Production		Index of Consumption (b) Sydney
	Pig Iron (a)	Ingot Steel	Gas & Electricity
Average 1937-39	100	100	100
Year 1938-39	112	103	104
1945 - July	132	115	150
1946 - August	113	112	158
September	116	117	167
October	116	119	177
November	120	120	164
December	116	108	149
1947 - January	117	106	142
February (c)	130	110	167

(a) N.S.W. and Whyalla. (b) Seasonally adjusted. (c) Subject to revision.

PART II: F I N A N C E & T R A D ENINE TRADING BANKS, AUSTRALIA:

Customers' deposits in Australian trading banks rose seasonally by £8 millions during February, 1947. The total (now £650 millions) is more than double the amount in February 1939 viz £322 millions. During the war period advances to customers had fallen from £284 millions in February 1939 to £199 millions in February 1945. In the ensuing 12 months (to February 1946) they rose to £208 millions followed by a further rise to £265 millions by February 1947. The special deposit requirements of the Commonwealth Bank restrict the capacity of banks to make advances to customers but industrial unrest and difficulties in obtaining labour and materials are also restraining expansion.

The banks' special deposits with the Commonwealth Bank were again increased during February and now total £272 millions compared with £243 millions a year ago. The percentage ratio of Special Accounts to Customers' Deposits in February 1947 was 41.8 per cent which is higher than in any previous month. Maximum deposits on Special Accounts which the Commonwealth Bank can require from the trading banks under the Banking Act, 1945 (previously under National Security Regulations) are based on the increase in the banks' total assets since 22nd August, 1945. Exact figures for the base period have not been published but available data suggest that present special deposits of £272 millions are in the vicinity of £20 millions below the maximum that may be required. Between February 1939 and May 1946 Governmental Securities held by trading banks rose from £20 millions to £123 millions. In the past nine months the total has decreased to £84 millions (February, 1947).

Treasury bill holdings of the trading banks have shown a seasonal rise in recent months but the total in February 1947 (£36 millions) is only one half of the total of February 1946 and not significantly greater than in pre-war years.

NINE TRADING BANKS - BUSINESS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

(Weekly Averages - £ millions)

Month	Deposits at credit of Customers	Advances to Customers	Gov't & Municipal Securities	Special A/c. with Common- wealth Bank	Treas- ury Bills	Cash	Ratios to Deposits		
							Advances	Cash & Treas -ury Bills	Special Account
							per cent	per cent	per cent
1939 Feb.	322	284	20	-	27	35	88	19	-
1946 Feb.	629	208	117	243	72	44	33	19	39
Nov.	624	258	101	257	25	37	41	10	41
Dec.	635	261	91	263	25	42	41	11	41
1947 Jan.	642	264	86	268	29	46	41	12	42
Feb.	650	265	84	272	36	42	41	12	42

DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES, N.S.W. - AUSTRALIA:

Allowing for seasonal fluctuations, customers' deposits in trading banks in New South Wales still show a tendency to rise. The total in February 1947 was £247 millions compared with £237 millions a year earlier and £116 millions in March quarter 1939. Advances to customers of trading banks in New South Wales rose from £85 millions in February 1946 to £106 millions in February 1947 which compares with £118 millions in March Quarter 1939.

NINE TRADING BANKS, DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES.

(Weekly Average - £ millions)

Period	Deposits				Advances	
	New South Wales			Australia	N.S.W.	Australia
	Bearing Interest	Other	Total	Total		
1939 March Quarter	65	51	116	322	118	285
1945 September	79	141	220	580	84	208
1946 February	74	163	237	629	85	208
November	74	166	240	624	104	258
December	75	170	245	635	104	261
1947 January	74	172	246	642	105	264
February	x	x	247	650	106	265

x Not yet available.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Both new deposits and withdrawals were £0.6 millions less in February than in January, 1947. The total balance on deposit with the Commonwealth Savings Bank in New South Wales again decreased slightly to £230.5 millions, making a total fall of £6.8 millions from the peak figure in August, 1946. The decline in new deposits follow the termination of demobilisation and resultant deferred pay credits. The slowing down in the rate of deposits was also to be expected but it is significant that while savings bank deposits rose from £207.5 millions in September, 1945 (when general demobilisation began) to £237.3 millions in July 1946 they have since fallen only to £230.5 millions.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK, N.S.W.
(£ millions)

Month	Deposits lodged during Month	Withdrawals made during Month	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Savings	N.S.W. Total Deposits	AUSTRALIA All Savings Banks Total Deposits
1939 March	-	-	-	86.5	244.9
1945 September	130.0	10.2	+ 2.8	207.5	593.0
1946 July	16.6	15.5	+ 1.1	237.3	666.6
August	14.5	14.8	- 0.3	237.0	666.9
September	13.1	14.3	- 1.2	235.8	664.8
October	14.1	15.1	- 1.0	234.8	661.9
November	13.4	15.2	- 1.8	233.0	658.2
December	12.5	14.2	- 1.7	231.3	653.8
1947 January	12.4	12.8	- 0.4	230.9	652.8
February	11.8	12.2	- 0.4	230.5	652.4

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS:

Income tax collections for the eight months ended February, 1947 totalled £108.5 millions as against £113 millions for the same period of 1945/46. Reduction in rates during 1946/47 was estimated to reduce income tax revenue by about £44 millions to £151 millions for the current year. Because of the spread of due dates for income tax payments, monthly income tax collections give no indication of the yearly revenue from that source. Lower rates and a seasonal diminution in trade after the Christmas season have caused a reduction on sales tax collections to £2.1 millions in February, 1947 as against £3.1 millions in January, 1947 and £2.5 millions in February, 1946. Even at a rate of £2 millions a month, revenue from sales tax will exceed budget estimates for 1946/47. In spite of reduced rates of duty, customs and excise revenue is well maintained and if the present level is kept up revenue for the year will exceed budget estimates.

COMMONWEALTH TAX REVENUE
(£ millions)

Month	Income Tax		Customs & Exc.		Sales Tax		Payroll Tax		All Taxes ^x	
	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47
July	21.0	17.1	5.5	7.6	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	30.8	29.7
August	16.0	11.9	5.7	8.3	2.6	3.4	0.9	1.1	26.0	25.6
Sept.	13.1	14.8 ^ø	5.7	8.0	2.4	3.7	1.0	1.1	23.0	28.4
Oct.	13.4	12.3	6.3	8.7	2.9	4.2	0.9	1.1	24.2	27.1
Nov.	12.9	12.2	6.7	8.5	2.7	3.8	0.9	1.2	24.0	26.6
Dec.	11.5	13.6	5.9	8.4 ^ø	1.6	3.2	0.9	1.1	20.4	27.0
Jan.	14.2	14.7	6.7	8.5	3.9	3.1	1.0	1.2	27.5	28.4
Feb.	10.9	11.9	6.9	8.4	2.5	2.1	0.9	1.2	22.1	24.7
Total Eight Months	113.0	108.5	49.4	66.4	20.9	26.5	7.5	9.1	198.0	217.5
Twelve Months		xx		xx				xx		xx
	194.6	151.0	77.9	89.0	33.6	31.0	11.5	13.0	351.2	348.5

^x incl. other taxes. xx Budget estimate. ø Reduction in rates.

Total tax revenue for the eight months ended February, 1947 was £217.5 millions as compared with £198 millions for the corresponding period of 1945/46. Defence and War II expenditure (from revenue and loan funds) was £183 millions less, but social services, tax reimbursements and other payments to States and departmental expenses were £34 millions higher than in 1945/46

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY
(£ millions)

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
Item	1945/46	1946/47	Item	1945/46	1946/47
Customs & Excise	49.4	66.4	Social Services	34.9	41.0
Income Tax	113.0	108.5	Payments to States	10.7	13.8
Sales Tax	20.9	26.5	Tax Reimbursed to States	13.6	21.0
Payroll Tax	7.5	9.1	Post Office	13.4	14.4
Other Taxes	7.2	7.0	Other	30.9	47.2
Total Taxes	198.0	217.5	Total of above	103.5	137.2
Post Office	18.8	19.5	Defence and War II	304.4	121.1
Other	6.2	8.3	Total Expenditure	407.9	258.3
Total Revenue	223.7	245.3			

During the past twelve months the Commonwealth has steadily reduced its short-term debt through the retirements of Treasury bills. In August 1945 Commonwealth Treasury bills outstanding in Australia totalled £358 millions; this amount increased further to £400 millions in February, 1946. Higher tax revenue and decreasing commitments on account of War II and defence during 1946 improved the cash position of the Commonwealth and at the end of February, 1947 Treasury bills outstanding had fallen by £122 millions to £278 millions. However, this reduction in the short-term debt was exceeded by the issue of long-term loans which yielded about £148 millions between February, 1946 and 1947. (including money raised for States works programmes).

COMMONWEALTH TREASURY BILLS, outstanding in Australia

End of Month	
1945 August	£358 millions
1946 February	£400 millions
August	£313 millions
1947 February	£278 millions

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

For the eight months ended February total revenue increased from £42.8 millions in 1945/46 to £46.8 millions in 1946/47 mainly because of a rise of £3.2 millions in receipts from the Commonwealth. These receipts include £1.9 millions in both periods on account of debt charges, £726,000 in 1946/47 under the Hospital Benefits Act to be disbursed through the Hospital Commission, and £8.8 millions in 1946/47 (£6.4 millions in 1945/46) as tax reimbursements. For the full year 1946/47 tax reimbursements are budgeted to total £16.5 millions as against £15.5 millions in 1945/46, so that for the remaining four months of the current year receipts under this heading will be about £1.4 million less than for the same period of last year.

Comparing the eight months periods of 1945/46 and 1946/47, revenue from business undertakings rose by £400,000, mainly because of higher railway receipts, but expenditure on their account increased by £1.2 millions. Departmental appropriations also show a substantial increase from £14.5 millions to £16.7 millions; budget estimates provide for £28 millions under this heading for the current financial year.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947
(£ millions)

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
	1945/46	1946/47		1945/46	1946/47
From Commonwealth x	8.3	11.5	Net Debt Charges	10.5	10.0
State taxation	4.2	4.6	Governmental	14.5	16.7
Other Governmental	4.8	4.8	Business Undertakings ^{xx}	20.0	21.2
Business Undertakings ^{xx}	25.5	25.9	Total Expenditure	45.0	47.9
Total Revenue	42.8	46.8	Net Deficit	- 2.2	- 1.1

x Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interests and hospital benefit.

xx Railways, trams and buses, Maritime Services. Excludes debt charges.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

After an orderly transition from the system of war-time controls to the return of free share dealings in January, the market remained very firm during February. The demand for industrial and retail store shares was very keen and turnovers in these shares were heavy. Favourable financial results shown in recently published balance-sheets and the promise of tax relief in 1947/48 have strengthened stock exchange prices. The strength of the market is shown by the easy absorption of new issues. It appears that during and since the war, substantial funds have accumulated for which investment opportunities are awaited. The low level of interest rates now prevailing is also boosting share prices.

A fall in the index for pastoral shares was due principally to a substantial drop in shares of one company which rose again towards the end of February and early in March. The decline in the Public Utilities index was caused by a fall in share values of the two Sydney ferry companies.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Bank). Par value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufacturing and Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral and Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939 - Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942 - Mar.	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1945 - Aug.	242.3	207.3	170.3	146.3	264.6	195.6	209.9
1946 - Aug.	285.7	244.6	193.6	165.1	312.2	226.2	244.5
Sept.	290.5	250.1	196.2	163.7	322.5	229.9	247.1
Oct.	289.0	251.9	196.4	159.4	322.5	229.2	245.6
Nov.	290.0	251.8	195.9	158.0	322.5	229.1	245.7
Dec.	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947 - Jan.	307.8	289.0	202.9	165.5	343.8	243.8	259.6
Feb.	313.0	298.9	195.0	160.3	360.3	246.4	260.4

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS:

After a seasonal fall in transfers of properties during November/December, 1946, the value of transactions increased again to £4.73 millions in February, 1947 but that is still below the high level of the early months of 1946.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.)

(Monthly Averages £ millions)

	Sales	Mortgages
1938 Year	3.12	2.25
1945 "	2.35	0.81
1946 "	4.24	1.76
1946 September Quarter	5.37	2.10
October	5.83	2.16
November	5.18	2.16
December	4.10	2.47
1947 January	4.56	1.86
February	4.73	2.03

Capital Issues Regulations were amended in February to reduce the maximum rate of interest on new land mortgages from $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum. This rate applies to mortgages which do not require Treasury approval, such as borrowing of individuals by mortgage not exceeding £5,000 within twelve months (the limit was raised from £1,500 to £5,000 in December, 1946). Loans on mortgage security by banks and other institutions are not affected by these regulations; the Commonwealth Bank's Mortgage Department charges $4-4\frac{1}{8}\%$ for loans, building and co-operative societies 5%, and trading banks $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for overdrafts.

OVERSEAS TRADE - AUSTRALIA:

Exports for the seven months ended January, 1947 totalled £179.4 millions exceeding total imports by £55.4 millions as compared with an import surplus of £20 millions for the same period of 1945/46 and an export surplus of £9.3 millions in 1938/39. The high export surplus for the current period as compared with 1945/46 is due to the high values of exports which rose from £11.6 millions in August, 1945 to £29.8 millions in August, 1946; towards the end of 1946 export values fell off to £23.3 millions in November and £21.7 millions in December but January brought a rise to £25 millions. Import values which had fluctuated between £13 - 27 millions a month throughout 1946 rose to £23 millions in January, 1947 and the export surplus for the month was the smallest since January, 1946.

OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA
(excluding bullion and specie movements)
(£A millions)

	Seven months ended January		
	1939	1946	1947
Imports: Civil Trade		63.8	111.2
Govt. Account		56.9	12.8
Total	75.8	120.7	124.0
Exports: Total	85.1	100.6	179.4
B A L A N C E :	+ 9.3	- 20.1	+ 55.4

(+) denotes excess of exports, (-) excess of imports

When comparing pre-war and post-war trade figures, account must be taken of the changes in price levels and the lag in the shipment of wool from old stocks since the end of the war. Because of the changing composition of total imports and exports and of the difficulty of determining representative prices for groups of merchandise, price indexes cannot give an accurate picture of changing import and export values; however, they indicate general trends. The import price index on the following table has been compiled by the Commonwealth Bank and the export price index by the Commonwealth Statistician; they are based on prices of goods which form the bulk of Australian import and export trade:

Period	IMPORT PRICE	EXPORT PRICE
	INDEX	INDEX
1936/37 - 1938/39	100	100
1943/44	194	117
1945/46	204	148
December, 1946	227x	209

x Preliminary.

Import prices were about doubled during the war and have shown a further small advance since. Of the major groups imported, piece goods now cost more than three times as much as before the war; petrol and oil with an advance to 146% of pre-war prices have become comparatively cheaper than raw materials, machinery, and manufactured articles, which have more than doubled in price. During the war import prices for goods from the United States and Canada rose comparatively less than those for goods from the United Kingdom but recent price advances have lifted American prices to about the same level as English prices. The terms of trade were unfavourable for Australia during the war as export prices rose at a much slower rate than import prices; however, continuous advances in the price of wool, wheat and other export prices lifted the export price index during 1946 from 150 to 209.

Taking into account the rise in import and export prices and the fact that the present high level of exports is partly due to shipments of wool sold before the resumption of auction sales, it is evident that the physical volume of both imports and exports on current contracts is below the 1938/39 level.

RETAIL TRADE (Sydney City Stores):

The value of sales in large Sydney stores continues to increase (compared with the same month of the previous year) but the rate of increase has slowed down since the second half of 1946. Demobilisation caused a large additional demand on retail stores last year but spending power is now declining from the abnormally high level created by demobilisation payments and accumulated war-time savings which were disbursed last year. Of current factors, wage increases favour high retail turnovers; sales tax reductions became effective early in the current year but they will not be sufficient to offset the influence of rising import prices and higher wages on retail prices.

In January, 1947 the value of sales in large Sydney stores was 17% higher than in January, 1946 which in turn had been 25% above the level of January, 1945. The value of stocks held by retail stores has steadily increased over the values for the comparative month of the previous year since July, 1946, the increase being 39% in January, 1947 but part of this increase is due to higher prices and stocks in most departments are still much below requirements.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase + or decrease - on same month of previous year.

Value of	1946							1947
	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Sales	+10	+26	+45	+32	+28	+14	+33	+17
Stock	- 8	+ 1	+ 8	+12	+21	+29	+38	+39

Value of sales in clothing departments were 8% higher in January 1947 than in January, 1946 and value of stocks rose by 33%; this advance is partly due to increased turnovers in high-priced lines of local manufacture or imported goods (piece goods, women's clothes and fancy drapery); sales of men's wear and men's boots and shoes were below last years level, though there has been an improvement in the stock position in these lines. Sales and stocks in other departments were well above last year's level.

LARGE SYDNEY STORES

Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) January 1947 compared with January 1946

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>		<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>
	%	%		%	%
Piece Goods	+9	+10	Furniture	+42	+54
Women's Wear	+11	+48	Hardware	+45	+56
Men's Wear	-	+18	Food & Perishables	+22	+85
Boots & Shoes	+ 9	+84	Miscellaneous	+16	+35
Total Clothing	+ 8	+33	All Classes	+17	+39

PART III: RURAL INDUSTRIESTHE SEASON:

Excellent rainfalls during February and March have greatly improved the seasonal outlook for the State. Pastures in the sheep and dairy districts benefited from soaking rain which promoted quick growth in previously drought-stricken areas. Condition of stock has improved accordingly.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Period	Sheet Districts					Wheat Dist- ricts	Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	State		N.	C.	S.	State
1944 (Year)	66	54	53	53	57	53	87	69	60	79
1945 (year)	99	101	86	77	93	89	114	98	104	109
1946 June	23	38	75	64	49	50	6	69	173	44
July	17	38	109	34	55	84	1	2	7	2
Aug.	2	13	60	8	25	41	20	3	19	16
Sept.	203	68	15	156	99	39	101	76	52	88
Oct.	34	63	51	17	46	17	103	51	66	85
Nov.	84	77	191	73	116	155	45	66	225	73
Dec.	78	83	98	116	90	94	79	77	34	72
1947 Jan.	77	21	8	7	31	18	190	75	31	140
Feb.	271	271	176	462	261	207	198	242	160	204
Mar.	142	82	151	178	132	136	126	70	39	101

N: Northern, C: Central, S: Southern, W: Western.

WOOL:

During February 20,000 bales of wool were received in stores in New South Wales and 156,000 bales were sold or shipped ex store, reducing the balance of unsold wool from this season held in store from 404,000 bales to 268,000 bales. Wool exports from the State for the eight months ended February totalled 1,274 million bales, but a large proportion was wool from previous clips.

MOVEMENT OF WOOL STOCKS (1946/47 Clip)

July 1946 to February 1947

Thousand bales.

N.S.W. Stores: Received	975
Disposed	707
Balance in Store	268
Exports from N.S.W. (incl. wool from earlier clips)	1,274

Auction sales of wool for the eight months ended February, 1947 totalled 1.75 million bales in Australia. During that period Joint Organisation bought-in only 26,000 bales; that means that for only $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of wool offered did bids not reach the reserve price. The markets remained very firm during February and March. British buyers have been more active since the New Year but are not yet bidding as strongly as before the war. Continental buyers continue to dominate the market with good support from the United States. Before the war American buyers concentrated on high-grade wools but their demand at recent sales covered a much wider range of fine and medium types. Australian mills are also buying freely.

Wool exports from Australia for the eight months period totalled nearly 3 million bales (including wool from old stocks). The destination of wool exports was as follows:

EXPORTS OF WOOL FROM AUSTRALIA - Eight months ended February, 1947.
(Million bales)

	<u>Greasy</u>	<u>Scoured</u>
United States	715	106
United Kingdom	383	125
France	432	32
Belgium	391	59
Italy	279	22
Canada	13	47
Sweden	31	23
<u>Other countries</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>102</u>
<u>T o t a l</u>	<u>2,351</u>	<u>516</u>

During the same period of 1945/46, 1.4 million bales of greasy wool and 245,000 bales of scoured wool were exported from Australia. It should be noted that some of the wool shipped to the United States and the continent is for re-export to other countries. The waterfront dispute in Sydney in March held up wool shipments and delayed payments to sellers.

The firm demand has further increased the level of wool prices. The average price of greasy wool at Sydney auction sales (total clip basis) has risen from 20½d per lb at the opening of sales in September, 1946 to 25d in February and March, 1947.

AVERAGE PRICE FOR GREASY WOOL, Realised at Sydney.

Year ended 30th June	d per lb.	Month	d per lb. ^{xx}
1928	19.5	1946 Sept.	20.5
1931	8.7	Oct.	21.5
1939	10.3	Nov.	23.0
1940	13.4 x	Dec.	23.0
1941 and 1942	13.1 x	1947 Jan.	24.0
1943 to 1946	15.1 x	Feb.	25.0
		Mar.	25.0

x On basis of British Government contract. xx Average rate that would be realised if whole clip were sold at Sydney price levels of that month.

Demand for wool at United Kingdom sales also continued firm with prices moving upwards during January and February. Continental countries have been the main buyers with good support from the United States and the USSR. British manufacturers have been granted a subsidy for the making of Utility woven wool cloths to equalize the rise in wool prices. Maximum prices which can be charged for other apparel cloth and upholstery fabric have recently been increased. Exports of textile products from Great Britain constituted 34% of total exports in 1937 but only 24% in 1946; the actual reduction in quantity was even greater as textile prices have risen to a greater extent than prices of other manufactured goods.

WHEAT:

Seasonal conditions in February and March were generally favourable for preparation for sowing. The northern, north western, and western wheat growing districts of the State in particular had very good rainfalls during the period, and Riverina districts benefited from falls in March although more rain is needed there.

The Wheat Board's basic export price f.o.r. ports rose from 13/8 $\frac{1}{4}$ per bushel in January to 14/6 per bushel in February as against 9/8 per bushel at the beginning of last year.

WHEAT EXPORT PRICES, AUSTRALIA

1928	1939	1940.	1945	1946			1947	
			January	January	November	December	January	February
5/1	2/6	4/-	6/5	9/8	12/5	13/8	13/8 $\frac{1}{4}$	14/6

Note: 1928 and 1939 figures "Shippers' Limits f.o.r. ports"; since then mean of Australian Wheat Board's basic export price for bulk and bagged wheat reduced to f.o.r. ports. ;

The rise in the Australian export price for wheat follows the movements of the world market price. In the United States, quotations at the Chicago wheat market rose temporarily to 305 cents (about 19/1) in spite of the curbing of grain speculations by credit restrictions. The damage done to winter crops in England, continental Europe, and the United States has reduced estimates of crop yields for the current year and the heavy demand on the wheat exporting countries is expected to continue to exceed available supplies. Proposals for an international wheat agreement between the principal exporting countries (Canada, Argentina, Australia, United States) are being discussed at a conference which opened in London in March.

Deliveries to the Wheat Board in New South Wales from the 1946/47 harvest totalled 8.15 million bushels as at 22nd March, 1947. The Commonwealth and State Governments are providing £1.5 million for the assistance of cereal growers in New South Wales whose crops failed in the 1946/47 season.

DAIRYING:

Substantial rainfalls in the dairying districts of the State during January and February have greatly improved the growth of pastures and fodder crops, and dairy production showed some recovery in February. However, the level of butter production in New South Wales remains much below that considered normal in pre-war years. The total for the eight months ended February, 1947 was 17.100 tons as compared with 23.300 tons for the same period of 1945/46 and 30.700 tons average for these eight months in the three seasons 1940-1942.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES (thousand tons)

Period		Average 1939/40 to 1941/42	1945/46	1946/47
Three Months (July to Sept.)		7.8	5.5	3.9
Month	October	3.8	3.4	2.0
"	November	4.4	3.3	2.3
"	December	5.0	3.9	2.8
"	January	5.0	3.6	2.8
"	February	4.7	3.6	3.3
Eight Months July-February		30.7	23.3	17.1
Four Months March to June		14.1	9.8	...
Twelve Months		44.8	33.1	...

Temporary restrictions on the sale of milk in the Sydney milk zone were lifted in February as supplies increased after rainfalls in the milk zone. Sales of cream are restricted by a shortage of bottles; otherwise they would probably be higher as they yield better returns to dairy farmers than sales to butter factories.

MILK SUPPLIED TO MILK BOARD - SYDNEY
(Four-weekly periods. Million gallons)

Four weeks ended	1946			1947		
	January 10	February 7	March 7	January 9	February 6	March 6
Whole Milk	3.40	3.55	3.65	3.40	3.52	3.70
Sweet Cream Milk	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.55	0.23	0.33

DAIRY COWS IN MILK

	<u>New South Wales</u>	<u>Australia</u>
March 1939	789,000	2,601,000
1945	706,000	2,278,000
1946	675,000	2,255,000

There has been a steady decline in the number of dairy cattle in New South Wales (and the whole of Australia) during and since the war, with a corresponding fall in the production of whole milk from 311 million gallons in 1938/39 to 263 million gallons in 1944/45; and 266 million gallons in 1945/46 but it is likely that production for 1946/47 will be much lower.

During the war years the production of cheese, condensed, concentrated, and powdered milk and milk foods showed a marked increase throughout the Commonwealth (a drop in cheese output in New South Wales was more than compensated by higher production in other States) at the expense of lower butter production. Of the whole milk produced in Australia, 78% was used in buttermaking in 1938/39 but only 66% in 1945/46. Butter production (factory and farm) in 1945/46 was 24% lower than in 1938/39.

PRODUCTION & UTILIZATION OF WHOLE MILK, Australia
(Million gallons)

Year	Butter	Cheese	Condensory	Other	T O T A L
	Factory & Farm		Products	Purposes	
1938-39	925	65	33	166	1,189
1944-45	670	77	62	204	1,013
1945-46	704	90	63	207	1,064